

**Minutes**  
**Public Service and Trust Commission**  
**Pro Bono Committee**  
**Training Subcommittee**  
**March 16, 2011**

The Subcommittee on Training held a teleconference on March 16, 2011 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT.

Those in attendance: Attorney Gregg Benson (chair), Attorney Steve Eppler-Epstein, Attorney Livia Barndollar, Attorney Ian Lodovice and Attorney Amy Haberman.

Attorney Benson called the meeting to order at 3:04p.m.

1. Attorney Benson welcomed all of the subcommittee members to the meeting and thanked them for their willingness to participate. Attorney Benson stressed that this initial meeting of the Training subcommittee was largely an organizational meeting to talk about the best way to deliver training programs to attorneys who are interested in performing pro bono work.

A discussion was held regarding the goals of the subcommittee and how it relates to the Pro Bono Summit in September. The subcommittee members agreed this issue should be addressed by Judge Bright at the Pro Bono Committee meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, the subcommittee reiterated the directive from the Pro Bono Committee that one of the goals of the Summit is to put forth concrete programs and opportunities that are ready to be presented to the attorneys who attend the Summit. Once attorneys sign up to participate in the pro bono programs, training for these programs would occur separately.

The subcommittee also discussed how the work of the Training and Programs subcommittees were largely intertwined and the two subcommittees should communicate regularly to coordinate their efforts. The subcommittee agreed that the Programs subcommittee should prepare a tentative list of pro bono programs in the next few weeks so that the Training subcommittee can utilize this initial list to formulate a clear plan for developing training curricula.

The subcommittee agreed that there presently are four (4) models by which pro bono services can be delivered. First, an attorney can take a pro bono case back to his or her office and handle it in a traditional manner. Second, the attorney can participate in a pro bono clinic where parties attend the clinic and receive legal advice from the attorney. Third, the attorney can function in a collaborative environment and act as co-counsel on pro bono cases. Finally, an attorney can volunteer his or her services at Legal Aid assisting indigent clients.

For all of these models, the subcommittee discussed the importance of expanding the pool of attorneys who can train pro bono attorneys beyond that of Legal Aid. The subcommittee agreed that utilizing private attorneys as trainers is an important part of recruiting a broader pool of pro bono attorneys and might help to increase the

comfort level of attorneys who, without training, might not participate in pro bono work.

The subcommittee also discussed the issue of utilizing authorized house counsel to perform pro bono work. Subcommittee members thought there may have been some resistance in the past by the Rules Committee to allow authorized house counsel who are not regularly admitted in Connecticut to perform pro bono work. The subcommittee thought this issue should be revisited in view of the need to find more attorneys to provide pro bono services, and a possible shift in the views of the membership on the Rules Committee. While it was noted that attorneys in general would need training, the importance of such training was stressed for authorized house counsel should they be permitted to provide pro bono services. Krista Hess was asked to bring this issue to Judge Bright for discussion at the next meeting of the Pro Bono Committee on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A suggestion was made that each subcommittee member develop a list of existing training resources for pro bono attorneys. Attorney Benson asked the subcommittee to email their suggestions to him so that he can organize them, remove duplicative resources and email the completed working list to all of the subcommittee members.

2. The subcommittee agreed to a meeting schedule of approximately one meeting per month and further agreed that this schedule could be modified as necessary.
3. The next meeting of the Training subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 3:00pm via teleconference.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.